



THE MESSENGER

OF THE OAKLAND STAKE OF ZION

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No. 6

THE PIONEERS OF 1847

(By Andrew Jenson, Assistant Church Historian)

Excerpts from Radio Address, Sunday, July 26, 1936

Eighty-nine years ago (in July, 1847) there stood upon the east bank of the Mississippi River in Hancock County, Illinois, a beautiful city which the year before had contained about twelve thousand inhabitants. It was by far the largest city in Illinois at the time; Springfield, the capital of the state, as well as Chicago, being both in their infancy.

In 1839 a religious body, known as Latter-day Saints, or Mormons, which had suffered much persecution in the states of Missouri and Ohio, were looking for a new location where they, as American citizens, could settle and enjoy religious liberty and other privileges and rights which had been denied them in other places where they previously had founded pioneer settlements.

In Hancock County, Illinois, they found a small body of people hailing from the East who were endeavoring to build up a settlement on the Mississippi River about fifty miles up-stream from Quincy, Illinois, but although these people were well equipped with everything necessary for founding a colony in the far west, they were not successful in their enterprise. They had found the location most desirable, but unhealthy, and so instead of building a town which they had already named Commerce they were fast building a graveyard on the hillside which seemed to contain as many dead as the settlement on the river contained living people.

Sold Out

Disappointed and discouraged, most of these settlers were glad to sell their lands on easy terms to whomsoever would buy. The community of Latter-day Saints who had been forced out of Missouri, took advantage of the opportunity, bought land from the older settlers and then proceeded to build a city where their predecessors from the East could not establish a village. With united efforts directed by competent and wise leaders the new settlers drained the swamps and turned them into beautiful gardens, cultivated the adjacent lands, turning them into fruitful fields, built substantial homes, established industries of different kinds, founded a university and built a temple costing a million dollars, incorporated the City of Nauvoo, organized a Home Militia known as the Nauvoo Legion, and became known far and wide as a most successful commonwealth.

Then the unexpected happened: persecutions similar to those that had harassed them in Missouri and Ohio arose against them. Why? What made the founders of Nauvoo unpopular with other people? What had they done to incur the hatred of their neighbors? They were "Mormons" who believed in continued revelation from God and had a prophet in their midst as leader who



Berkeley Scouts at Wolfboro. Left to right: Sterling Carr, Don C. Wood, Jr., William P. (Billy) Driggs, Lawrence Stout, Dr. Raymond L. Knight, Scout Master, Troop No. 8, Clarence Dangerfield, Lynn Knight, Marion Huish Johnson, Carver Moosman, Francis J. (Billy) Parsons, Jr.

claimed that he had conversed with angels and possessed divine authority. But in a country where religious liberty is provided for in the fundamental law of the land that should not constitute a crime. That most of the "Mormons" were abolitionists, and consequently did not favor slavery, caused some contentions between a few old Southerners and the "Mormons" in Missouri; but as the "Mormons" minded their own business, did their own work and did not interfere with the slave holders, a mere difference of opinion should not cause trouble between neighbors. Yet, persecution and the final banishment of the Saints from Missouri were the results.

After the death of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, who is now classed as the greatest pioneer that ever figured in American history, became the leader of the Latter-day Saint Church. He had directed the removal of the Saints from Missouri in Illinois in 1839 when Joseph Smith and others were imprisoned under false accusations in Missouri, and now he proved equal to the greater task of directing the removal of nearly the entire population of Nauvoo and vicinity (about twenty thousand souls) a distance of thirteen hundred miles from Illinois to Great Salt Lake Valley.

When the Saints were forced away from Nauvoo their enemies predicted that they would either be killed by hostile Indians or die from starvation, but Pres. Young knew how to make Indians his friends, and gold coins obtained through the enlistment of the Mormon Battalion in the service of the U. S. Government, and from other sources, saved the Nauvoo exiles from starvation, and at the same time gave them an opportunity to show their loyalty to the U. S. Government.

(Continued on Next Page)

SCOUTS

On Saturday, July 25, Dr. Raymond L. Knight and the Troop Committee of Troop No. 8 took two loads of Berkeley Ward Scouts to Wolfboro, the Berkeley-Contra Costa Camp in the Sierras, located some fifty or sixty miles northerly of Angels Camp. Here they had an enjoyable time for a week, winning merit badges, hiking, swimming, fishing, playing games, and getting acquainted with the other scouts from their area. The Troop Committee and Scout Master brought them home Sunday, Aug. 3.

MISSIONARIES

Elder Gail Cragun arrived safely in the Brazilian Mission. He labored in San Paulo for awhile as the "Official Organist" at the Mission headquarters. He is mastering the German language very rapidly and though he has been there only a few weeks he can understand much of what is said and can discuss the Gospel with the Saints there.

The houses in San Paulo are built with walls around them and instead of ringing door bells, as missionaries in this country do, they stand outside of the wall and clap their hands.

Sister June Weindorf, of the Dimond Ward, is still laboring in Minneapolis, Minn. She has a new companion, Sister Draper of Salt Lake City, and is enjoying her work immensely. She is on the "Honor Roll" there for Tracting, selling Books of Mormon, and Visiting Investigators. She had the privilege of attending an open air baptismal service where three new members were baptized in the Mississippi river. She was invited to accompany the Mission President to Monticello where conference was being held, and she was one of the speakers there. After the conference they stayed to organize a Relief Society.

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"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me; and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple."—Mal. 3:1.

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WARD TEACHERS' MESSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER, 1936

Honesty

"Honesty is that quality in man that shows him fair and truthful in speech, above cheating, stealing, misrepresentation, or any other fraudulent action. Honor adds to honesty a sturdy and splendid devotion to such standards of right, fidelity, courage, and conduct as society has crystallized throughout the centuries."—Winston Dictionary.

"It is true that honesty is the best policy; but if that be the motive of honest dealing, there is no real honesty."—Strong.

"The basis of high thinking is perfect honesty."—Homerton.

"The man who is honest in his dealings with his fellow-man has a subsidy which money cannot buy."—Hunter.

From "The Power of Truth," by William George Jordan, hundreds of copies of which President Heber J. Grant has given to his friends, the following thoughts are taken for the Teachers' Message this month:

"Truth is the rock foundation of every great character."

"Lying is one of the oldest vices in the world—it made its debut in the first recorded conversation in history."

"Lying is the sacrifice of honor to create a wrong impression."

"Truth is the oldest of all virtues."

"The man who makes truth his watchword is careful in his words. He never states as a fact that of which he is not sure. What he says has the ring of sincerity."

"The man who lies to save a nickel merely proclaims that he esteems a nickel more than he does his honor."

"He who sacrifices his ideals, truth, and character, for mere money or position, is weighing his conscience in one pan of a scale against a bag of gold in the other."

"The tradesman who lies, cheats, misleads, and overcharges and then seeks to square himself with his anaemic conscience by saying 'lying is absolutely necessary in business' is as untrue in his statements as he is in his acts."

"The politician who is vacillating, temporizing, shifting, is a trickster who succeeds only until he is found out."

"The man who forgets his promises is untrue."

The world today needs truth and honesty above all else. Honesty is a part of the religion of the true Latter-day Saint. He is honest with himself, with his fellowman and with the Lord. No true Latter-day Saint can be less.

PIONEERS

(Continued from Page 1)

An Industrious Band

They were not lazy, for their examples in frugality and industrious habits, which brought them success, often created jealousies on the part of those who were inclined to live easier lives. They were not selfish, which is proven by the sacrifices made by so many of them in preaching the Gospel of Christ in all parts of the world, at their own expense, thus showing their willingness to share the precious Gospel truth and happiness with their fellowmen.

The honors which during the past few days have been paid the pioneers of Utah are in good taste, when it is remembered that they did their pioneer work as a God-fearing people. The expulsion of the Saints from Nauvoo caused them to become the first Anglo-Saxon settlers in what are now the states of Nebraska, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho and Nevada, and even to turn the unimportant trading post of Yerba Buena on the Bay of San Francisco into the present Anglo-Saxon city of San Francisco. But while we are proud of the honor due us in having been the first in the instances named, we are more pleased with the fact that the pioneers we honor did their work as God-fearing men and women in such a way that their posterity can safely build upon the foundation their fore-bearers have laid. In the language of a Mormon poet the youth of today are encouraged to be true to the faith which their "parents have cherished" and true to the faith "for which martyrs have perished." That means to be loyal to Almighty God, loyal to the principles of true Christianity and loyal to their country and its Constitution and that form of government which protects all in the free exercise of religious liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

NUPTIALS

Among the interesting spring nuptials are those of Jesse Farr, young attorney, and president last year of the Berkeley Young Men's Improvement Association, and Phyllis Durham, of Salt Lake City. Mrs. Farr was a student here at the University of California a year or two ago. The romance probably had its inception then. The Messenger wishes this popular couple success and happiness unbounded.

Another spring marriage of interest is that of Lund Johnson and Laura Snow. Mr. Johnson is a son of Charles R. Johnson, for many years a professor of music at the Brigham Young University at Provo, and the A. C. U. at Logan. He passed away a number of years ago greatly bereaved of his many friends.

DEATH

Mary E. Parsons, mother of Frank J. Parsons, formerly of the High Council and now the Oakland Stake Music Director, passed away at her home in Salt Lake City on July 15, 1936. She was well known here among many of the people, she and her husband visiting her son many times through the last twenty years. She is survived by her husband, Arthur Parsons and four sons and two daughters. We extend our heart-felt sympathy to Brother Parsons and his family.

The enthusiasm of the stake missionaries for the new set-up under the First Council of Seventy is clearly reflected in the increase in activities for June over May of this year. Without increase in the number of laborers the percentage increase of June over May begins at 22% for the hours spent in work and reaches 67% increase in the first invitations in while tracting. A 38% increase is shown in the evenings worked, a 39% in the calls made, and a 27% increase in gospel conversations.

The number of cottage and hall meetings grew 40%. This particular phase of the work is being encouraged as a means of self-training in presenting the gospel to strangers as well as a means of reaching the investigators. The saints are cordially invited and urged to attend any and all such cottage meetings as are announced.

PRAYER

We beseech Thee, Lord, to behold us with favor, folk of many families and nations, gathered together in the peace of this roof; weak men and women, subsisting under the covert of Thy patience. Be patient still; suffer us yet awhile longer—with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavors against evil—suffer us awhile longer to endure, and (if it may be) help us do better. Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day come when these must be taken, have us play the man under affliction. Be with our friends; be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns to us, our sun and comforter, call us up with morning faces and with morning hearts—eager to labor—eager to be happy, if happiness shall be our portion—and if the day be marked for sorrow—strong to endure it.—"An Evening Prayer," by Robert Louis Stevenson.

*So he died for his faith. That is fine,
 More than most of us do.
 But, say, can you add to that line
 That he lived for it, too?
 In his death he bore witness at last
 As a martyr to the truth.
 Did his life do the same in the past,
 From the days of his youth?
 It is easy to die. Men have died
 For a wish or a whim—
 From bravado or passion or pride,
 Was it harder for him?
 But to live—every day to live out
 All the truth that he dreamt,
 While his friends met his conduct with doubt
 And the world with contempt.
 Was it thus that he plodded ahead,
 Never turning aside?
 Then we'll talk of the life that he lived,
 Never mind how he died.*

Ernest Crosby

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• • WARD NEWS • •

ELMHURST

Miss Lydia M. Hatfield and Elder Iven D. Pearson were married on June 17 in the Elmhurst Ward Chapel. Bishop Horace J. McFarlane performed the ceremony. The couple have left for Salt Lake City, where they expected to go through the Temple.

Helene and Bette Brummett, together with their Mother, were hostesses at a party given in honor of the birthday of their brother, Robert.

Sister Inez McFarlane and children are spending the summer with relatives in Ogden.

The marriage of James R. Calvert Jr., grandson of the late James Pingree of Ogden, Utah, and Miss Catherine T. Washburn was solemnized June 13. Bishop Horace J. McFarlane performed the ceremony. This young couple will reside in the Dimond Ward.

Betty Maxine Niles, daughter of James E. Niles and Gladys Simpson Niles, was blessed by Bishop Horace J. McFarlane.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Staley was blessed by the child's grandfather, Elder Osborn Low.

The ward sympathizes with Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Ream in the passing of the latter's father, Patriarch Swen L. Swenson, while visiting his daughter. The deceased's home is in Pleasant Grove, Utah.

BERKELEY

The Stake M. I. A. sponsored a party on the 24th of July in honor of the day. Our Berkeley Ward Amusement Hall was filled to capacity with couples dancing to the music of the fine orchestra obtained for the occasion.

The Berkeley Deseret Club members enjoyed themselves at a barbecue held at Sequoyah Park, on Saturday Night, July 25. This is the second outdoor affair to be sponsored by the club. The usually slack summer season has witnessed no decline in the club's activities.

On Sunday night, August 2, the M. I. A. officers of the preceding season were released from their duties, which they had performed to the entire satisfaction of the ward members. Jesse Smith replaced Jesse Farr as the M. Men president, and Margaret Smith replaced Louise Knight as the Young Ladies' president.

On the evening of Sunday, July 19, Miss Helen Caine was hostess at an after-Church social held at her home. Among her guests were several University students attending the summer session.

OAKLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Heber C. Osborne from 13th Ward, Ogden, have been visiting their daughter, Alvina M. Sorensen.

A Missionary meeting is being held each Tuesday evening at 7:30 in the Oakland Chapel. Everyone is invited. These meetings are under the direction of Heber C. Brown, district president.

A party was held at Sister Randall's home, Friday the 24th of July. Pioneer day was the motif, and the costumed guests and covered wagons serving as decorations carried out the theme.

In the Oakland Chapel, July 23, a genealogical party was held under the direction of Brother Haddock. In addition to games and refreshments, Brother Sorensen showed pictures of all the temples and the dedicatory players.

Sister Bergman, who has been seriously ill, is well on the way to recovery.

The Primary closed for the season with a social for the children and a swimming party for the Officers and teachers at the Lakeside Plunge. Although the Primary has officially closed until Fall, clubs have been formed and the children are making toys and clothing to be contributed to the ward for those who need them.

Mrs. Hansen and her son, Jack, of Honolulu, are visiting Mrs. Rose Dever, who is the mother of Mrs. Hansen.

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• • WARD NEWS • •

BIRTHS

DIMOND: Son, to Clyde and Sarah Summerhays.
ELMHURST: Daughter, to Ray Darton and wife.
ELMHURST: Daughter, to Harold T. Sutton and wife.

DEATHS

ELMHURST: Patriarch Swen L. Swenson of Pleasant Grove, Utah.
DIMOND: Christine Mortensen.

CONFIRMATIONS

OAKLAND: Lawrence Sears.
OAKLAND: Stanley Osborn Sorenson.

ORDINATIONS

ELMHURST: Teachers—Easton Carlisle, William D. Moore. Priests—Edwin L. Marchant, Kenneth W. Partington, Wilford W. Nelson, Wilborn A. Schipper, Reed A. Goodpasture.

DIMOND

Charles Welch from Big Horn Stake, Wyoming is visiting with his brother, James Welch and family.

The Sunday School was recently reorganized, John Reed and Elmer Clarke succeeding Anton Olson and Ivan Hilton as counselors to Superintendent Francis Gealta.

Neil Mathisen and family are visitors from Detroit.

The Primary Officers and Teachers gave a Stork shower for Zora Eves the afternoon of July 2nd.

Kenneth G. Mathisen and Emma Lawrence were married in the Salt Lake Temple June 23rd. They were joined in Salt Lake by John K. Mathisen and wife, and son, Donald.

The Dimond Choral closed their season with a charming dancing party given in the Dimond Hall. Small tables surrounded the dance floor, a dainty supper was served to about forty couples.

Parley Fish and family motored to Lake Tahoe over the 4th.

Barbara Berg has left for Albany, N. Y. where she will be joined by her fiancé, Robert Loane. They are to be married July 22nd on the baseball diamond; it will be the opening game of night baseball there. They will receive a new Chevrolet as a wedding gift.

Herb Weiland with his wife and two sisters and his son, Donald, just returned from a pleasant motor trip to Salt Lake.

A Linen shower was given for Evelyn Mayer (Duncan), a recent bride, by Mary Cherrington and Leona Peterson at the Cherrington home. About 60 friends enjoyed the unique entertainment and delicious refreshments. The bride received many lovely gifts.

Charles C. Cherrington and wife have left for a six weeks' trip touring the Northwest, combining a business and pleasure trip.

Jean Lauper and little daughter, Georgia, are in Los Angeles visiting.

One of the outstanding affairs of the year was the Operetta given by a group of Mutual members June 21st. Robert Kest's and Jayne Cozzin's acting left nothing to be desired. Equally good in their respective parts were Ruth Gealta, Tom Ferguson, Esther England, Owen Lewis, Walter Eddington, Lillian Olson, and Ralph Lauper, who played a leading part with just a week in which to prepare it. A great deal of credit is due Jean Lauper for her untiring efforts in spite of an ever-changing cast and chorus. The music was exceptionally fine, and the dialogue was clever and amusing. It

would bear repeating and is worthy of a far larger audience.

July 3rd Myrth Graham from Utah and Edward James Walker from Illinois were married by Bishop Serge J. Lauper.

Tom Heath and Jesse Lange motored to Reno to be married last month.

Francis Gealta and family left last week for Ogden, Utah, to spend a couple of weeks.

Nora B. Fish had the privilege of attending the graduation exercises of three of her nephews last month, Parley Fish Jr., at Castlemont High School, Frank Burnham from Polytechnic High, at the Municipal Opera House in San Francisco, and William Yerger from U. C. L. A. held at the Stadium in Los Angeles.

MARTINEZ

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Cullen have returned from a vacation spent in Utah.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Cullum and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Radison enjoyed a vacation trip to Idaho.

Mrs. Stanley Dahlin and children are spending their vacation in Vancouver, Washington.

Claude Wadsworth, whose illness has been of several month's duration, is wished a speedy recovery by his friends.

Blaine Johnson of Spanish Fork, Utah, is visiting at the home of his uncle, Einer Johnson.

We welcome the Saunders and the Nix families into our Ward.

The Walter Brey family has moved to Rodeo.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Storey and Mrs. Bert Guymon and children are vacationing in Ogden.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Starr and daughter have returned from a trip to Colorado.

An especially interesting Sacrament Meeting was that held on June 21. Reed Chase was the speaker.

Mrs. Natalie Sant is in Salt Lake visiting with relatives.

RICHMOND

Babies blessed during the months of August and July were the child of Brother and Sister Higgins, Donald David Marcyes, and Sherma Chester.

Drs. W. J. and Irene Jenkins are vacationing in the Eastern States. Other returning vacationists are Sister Nettie Dewsnup and her son Jack and daughter Shirley, who have been to Puta Creek.

The Bishopric were hosts at the regular monthly Ward Officers' Meeting held at Elder C. W. Dewsnup's home, July 9. The Ward Teachers were the honored guests. About 40 members were present.

The new Mutual officers have made a commendable start in the season's activities. President W. Aird Macdonald was the speaker at the first conjoint meeting. Plans for a party to be held at the Rod and Gun Club at the Standard Oil grounds have been made. Elder Blaine K. Haddock is the President of the Y. M. M. I. A., with Elder Peter Gengler and Phelps as counselors. Sister Naomi Layton is President of the Young Ladies with Sisters Mildred Haddock and Margery Gengler as counselors.

Elder Wm. R. Fuller has been made the Superintendent of the Sunday School with Elders Russel Johnson and Allan Tidwell as counselors.

Elder Herbert Layton has been set apart as counselor to Elder Albert Dietliker in the Genealogy Department.

We welcome Brother Edmond Phelps of Kaysville, Utah, to our Ward, and hope he will be able to settle here permanently.

Sisters Lileth and Margaret Tidwell are spending the summer with relatives in Utah.

Sister Mildred Haddock and her daughters Margean and Donna have returned from Modesto, California, where Sister Haddock was called by her Mother's illness. Her mother is recovering satisfactorily.

Sister Donna Thulin and sons, Curtis and Willard, and Sister Chelnitia Wheeler and her children, Charles and Edna are vacationing in Napa County, California.

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